

Arab funds pledge Lebanon \$200m

IRUT, Feb. 2 (R). — Arab development funds have pledged almost 1,000 million Lebanese pounds (about \$200 million) for a crash programme to rebuild war-torn Lebanon, authoritative sources said here today. They added the pledges were the result of a tour of Arab countries, including Gulf states, by Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Selim Al Hoss last month. The sources said money would be used for the first stage of a reconstruction programme aimed at overcoming the legacy of months of civil war which caused damages estimated around \$5 billion. A considerable proportion of the money would be spent on rebuilding Beirut port.

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House panel O.K.'s Egypt food aid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R). — The Carter administration today outlined a plan to divert \$190 million from this year's estimated \$900 million in economic aid to Egypt to help the country import food and other commodities. State Department officials briefed a House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on the plan, and won the panel's endorsement. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton said the food aid would help stabilise President Anwar Sadat's government. "Conditions in 1977 are very favourable for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and Egypt remains a key country for getting negotiations started," he declared.

ASSAD, SARKIS COORDINATE PLANS IN SOUTH LEBANON

ASCUS, Feb. 2 (R). — Syrian and Lebanese leaders today agreed on a common policy on moves to restore peace to sensitive southern part of Lebanon. The agreement to work for a position came in a communique on five hours of talks between presidents Hafez Assad of Syria and Elias Sarkis of Lebanon.

Earlier, President Assad told newsmen that Syrian troops could deploy anywhere in Lebanon including the sensitive south — but he left the final decision to the Lebanese. President Assad told reporters today that Syrian troops in Lebanon, part of the Arab League peace force there, were under the command of Lebanese President Elias Sarkis. If he ordered them to the southern most extremity of Lebanon, they would go there, Mr. Assad said.

The joint statement said the two presidents gave the situation in southern Lebanon the attention it deserved and studied complications which could ensue if it deteriorated. The two presidents expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far in restoring peace to Lebanon and the measures taken to implement the 1969 Cairo agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The statement said the two leaders affirmed their complete faith "in Lebanon's Arab role and in the unity of its land, people and official institutions."

The joint statement, issued here and in Beirut, said the two presidents called on their sides to produce a joint work plan on Lebanon and the Middle East.

It added that Mr. Sarkis had invited the Syrian president to visit Lebanon, and a date would be fixed later for the visit. Israeli sources in Beirut, close to the Lebanese border, meanwhile said that Syrian tank forces strengthening their positions around the Lebanese town of Nabatieh.

The sources said the Syrians were using a tractor to erect earthworks around tank sites near the town.

Syrians were also putting up tents on the outskirts of Nabatieh and were sending out small foot patrols to villages to the north, east and south-west, the sources said.

Syrian forces in Nabatieh consisted of a commando battalion and two tank companies equipped with Soviet-made T-75 tanks jeep-like vehicles with recoilless rifles and anti-tank missiles, the sources added.



President Hafez Assad receives Lebanese President Elias Sarkis as he arrives at Damascus International Airport Tuesday. (Sana photo).

Mondale: Industrial superpowers agreed to stimulate economies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R). — Vice President Walter Mondale said today "the three great engines" of international economics — the United States, West Germany and Japan — had reached complete agreement on the need to stimulate their economies.

But, reporting at a news conference on the 10-day tour of West Europe and Japan which he completed yesterday, he said differences remain on the extent of the stimulus needed and its relation.

The Carter administration's programme for boosting the American economy amounts to an injection of \$31.2 billion, or one per cent of the U.S. gross national product, about the same percentage as Japan's.

West Germany has been concerned that too big a boost will bring inflation. But the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development considers the U.S. plan too small to produce the growth rates it is intended to yield.

Mr. Mondale's tour took him to Brussels, Bonn, Berlin, Rome, London, Paris, Reykjavik and Tokyo.

He told the news conference that the talks were successful, but he indicated differences on various issues.

These include the timing and subject matter of a Western summit meeting this year, French and West German sales of nuclear reprocessing equipment capable of making explosives and the release by France of Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Dawud.

Officials who travelled with Mr. Mondale said yesterday there was broad agreement the summit could be held in London next May, possibly around the time of a NATO meeting there.

Mr. Mondale added that he presented suggested agenda items from several countries to President Carter this morning.

"It's our hope that we would simply call it 'the summit'. We would anticipate that economic issues would be a central concern, but nuclear proliferation, the north-south dialogue and a host of other issues are concerns we hope could freely be included on the agenda," he said.

Jordan, PLO reconciliation talks to start here next week, Al Quds reports

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (Agencies). — Al Quds, an independent Arab newspaper published in occupied east Jerusalem, today said reconciliation talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will begin in Amman next week and will be followed by an Arab summit in Damascus.

Al Quds yesterday reported that a Palestinian team led by Khaled Al Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council (the Palestinian parliament-in-exile), will meet Jordanian leaders next week. The Palestinian team will include Hani Al Hassan, political adviser to the PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Following next week's talks, His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Yasser Arafat, Egypt's President Sadat and Syria's President Assad will meet for talks in Damascus, Al Quds said.

Meanwhile, an official Jordanian spokesman in Amman denied a report by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyasa that Jordan had agreed to allow Palestinian commanders to operate from its borders. The spokesman said the newspaper report was "entirely false".

Waldheim optimistic about Mideast peace efforts

CAIRO, Feb. 2 (R). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim began a 10-day tour of the Middle East today in an optimistic mood about peace moves in the area.

On his arrival here from Geneva, Dr. Waldheim told reporters he was cautiously optimistic that the Middle East peace conference might be resumed in the Swiss city by this spring.

Referring to his six-nation tour, he said: "Of course I have to discuss this with the parties concerned during my trip, and only then can I make a statement."

Khaddam flies to Cairo today

CAIRO, Feb. 2 (R). — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam is due here tomorrow on an unscheduled visit for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Ismail Fahmi, a Foreign Ministry source said here today.

The sources declined to elaborate but it was believed the visit would deal with the co-ordination of the Egyptian-Syrian policy in the talks with U.N. Secretary General K. Waldheim.

Egypt believes that Arab front-line states should go to the proposed Geneva Middle East Peace Conference under separate delegations, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Syria, on the other hand has said that it favoured a joint Arab delegation to the conference.

Mr. Khaddam was also expected to discuss plans for a tripartite summit conference comprising Egypt, Syria and Sudan in Khartoum next week. Egyptian sources here said the summit was likely to be postponed until late this month.

Vance due in Moscow on March 28 for SALT talks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R). — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will begin a visit to the Soviet Union on March 28 to discuss the limitation of strategic arms, it was announced today. Mr. Vance said on Monday, at his first press conference as secretary of state, that he would be visiting the Soviet Union next month.

Today's announcement by the state department did not say how long Mr. Vance would be in the Soviet Union.

"In the course of the visit," it said, "discussions are planned on questions relating to the conclusion of a strategic offensive arms limitation agreement as well as on other questions of mutual interest for the USSR and the United States."

The first Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States expires in October, five years after it was signed by President Nixon and Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev.

President Carter has said that reaching a new agreement before the present one expires will be one of the top priorities of his administration this year.

The naming of a special negotiator to head the U.S. team for the SALT talks is expected soon.

Former Defence Secretary Paul Warnke is understood to have been chosen for the job, and at the same time head the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

Mr. Vance said on Monday that this appointment would be announced that day by the White House, but no announcement has yet been made. No official reason has been given for the delay.

However, Mr. Warnke's possible nomination to head the ACDA has generated criticism in Congress on the grounds that he favours considerable reduction of the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal.

Mr. Vance's first foreign trip as secretary of state, a one-week visit to six Middle Eastern countries, will begin on Feb. 14.

There have been reports that Israeli general elections in May and a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) might delay a resumption of the conference.

Dr. Waldheim said: "We cannot always wait for some elections or congresses or whatever it may be, because otherwise we would never start the negotiating process."

"So I am of the opinion that we have to make a serious effort in order to get out of the actual statement and resume as quickly as possible the negotiating process."

Dr. Waldheim said the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any future negotiating process was of crucial importance.

Dr. Waldheim later met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi. He emerged from the meeting to describe the talks as useful and helpful. Negotiations will resume tomorrow.

Mr. Fahmi told reporters he had explained Egypt's view that the PLO should be invited to the Geneva conference as an independent party.

He said that if efforts to resume the conference by March failed Egypt would ask the U.N. Security Council to discuss the Middle East problem.

There were prospects for peace in the Middle East, Mr. Fahmi said, "except in Israel which has no intention of establishing peace."

Both Israel and the United States have rejected PLO participation in the Geneva conference.

The U.N. chief had told reporters at Cairo airport he had his own thoughts on how to overcome these procedural difficulties, but that he would listen first to the views of the government leaders he would meet on his tour.

He said one of the ideas circulated was to have a ceremonial opening for the Geneva conference, then to set up working groups to do the substantial work.

Outlining the plan to reporters in Geneva yesterday, Dr. Waldheim suggested that a formal opening might take place without the PLO.

The Palestinians would then join the second phase, in which working groups would discuss specific aspects of the Middle East problem.

Dr. Waldheim said that his talks in Geneva earlier today with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, had been "very useful".

The U.N. chief said he hoped his visit would lead to a resumption of the Geneva conference.

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FIRST Franjeh advocates liberal Lebanese state

UT, Feb. 2 (R). — Form-banese President Sulei-Franjeh today stressed calling for political decentralisation and the creation of federal states for Lebanon's Muslim and Christian communities.

In an interview with the weekly Al Sayyad, Franjeh said: "We wish to see a decentralisation so each party will be self-sufficient and so that grievances from both parties will be solved."

He was clearly referring to non-Muslims and Christians. Rivalry between the two communities was one of the causes of the 19-month civil war.

Commenting on suggestions for political decentralisation, he said: "If we lead to partition, the president said there was no need for a country-wide federal system."

Two ideas of a Swiss-style federalism were first publicly by rightwing Camille Chamoun just weeks after fighting in the country ended last year.

According to sources close to the Syrian leadership, Mr. Franjeh and Phalangist party leader Pierre Gemayel were rebuffed when they rallied the federation plan at a meeting with Syrian President Assad in Damascus last week.

Mr. Franjeh said President Assad had told his visitors in certain terms that the Syrian leadership was totally opposed to federation or political decentralisation.

As marines help dig out Buffalo, N.Y.

Warm fronts drift across U.S., threatening floods, drought

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (R). — Warm fronts drifted in across the United States today, bringing the menace of floods and drought. In a bitter twist of irony, the worry in the far west today was... drought.

And, in a bitter twist of irony, the worry in the far west today was... drought. "It is worse than a crisis, it is a disaster," said an official in California's Marin County.

The county, across the Golden Gate from San Francisco, ordered a 57 per cent cut in the use of water.

While eastern states shivered, and 2,000 U.S. marines helped dig out the city of Buffalo after a five-day blizzard, the Agriculture Department said crops were threatened in the western "great grain belt" by a lack of snow.

Heavy snow would protect the earth and provide moisture later in the year in the area, including Nebraska, Kansas and the Dakotas.

If more snow does not fall, the western states could face water shortages and dust storms.

Across the country in Buffalo, in upper New York State, warming sun and reduced winds enabled people to start dealing with their problem, too much snow.

More than 178 cm (70 in) has fallen since Jan. 1 on the city, then a blizzard that started on Friday brought it to a complete halt. Eight people died in trapped cars.

Temperatures hovered near the freezing mark (zero c.) in Buffalo today for the first time since Christmas and residents took to the streets and cheered a task force of snowploughs, manned by soldiers flown in from as far away as North Carolina, as it began clearing drifts up to eight metres (25 ft) deep.

The national weather service said warm fronts, one in the Dakotas and another in the central plains, brought milder weather to much of the U.S.

But weather forecasts say February also will be colder than normal.

ends, and said that, when it eventually does, the thaw could bring the menace of floods.

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As demonstrators shout "Army to power"

Spanish cabinet cracks down on military dissent in wake of political murders

MADRID, Feb. 2 (R). — The Deputy Director of Spain's naval warfare school was dismissed today as the government cracked down on military dissent.

And outside a Madrid church, about 250 ultra-rightist demonstrators shouted "Down with King Juan Carlos" and "Government resign" during a requiem mass for three policemen killed by urban guerrillas last week.

A similar demonstration at the funeral of the policemen last Saturday led to the sacking of Capt. Camilo Menendez Vives, 55, from his naval school post.

He shouted "Honour is more important than discipline" when the Deputy Premier, Lt. Gen. Manuel Gutierrez Mellado, tried to silence military men chanting anti-government slogans.

Capt. Menendez Vives had earlier been officially reprimanded and confined to quarters for 48 hours.

The incident followed indignation in the armed forces at the outburst of violence which the government says is aimed at subverting the state and provoking the military into seizing power.

To avoid further protests at today's mass, the government announced that only invited guests could attend.

No invitations were issued to ultra-rightist groups such as the Confederation of Civil War Veterans or the New Force political party.

But about 250 extreme right-wingers defied a government ban on demonstrations and marched to the church, shouting "Down with the government" and "Juan Carlos go back to Greece" — an apparent reference to his Greek-born wife Queen Sofia.

Strong contingents of police kept the demonstrators about 100 metres from the church.

The demonstrators booed as officials drove up for the mass. Afterwards, the officials left the church through a side street to avoid the hostile crowd. But generals were applauded with shouts of "Army to power", while civilian officials were jeered.

Slogans were painted overnight on walls around the church accusing the government of weakness and responsibility for the violence.

One slogan said: "Prime Minister Suarez plus 1977 equals 1936 (the start of the Spanish civil war)."

Other slogans branded Gen. Gutierrez Mellado as a Communist and a free mason and demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Rodolfo Martin Villa.

Senior Suarez, who has said he will not let the violence divert Spain from its goal of democracy, kept his normal work routine. He received Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans and other European

Christian Democratic leaders who attended a conference here.

Afterwards, Mr. Tindemans told reporters the government of Senor Suarez was trying to transform an authoritarian regime into a true democracy.

Describing this as a "unique historic phenomenon", he said: "It is of maximum interest not only for the Spanish people, but the whole world that this operation should be carried out peacefully and successfully."

Leftwing opposition parties prepared to meet tomorrow after being told by Senor Suarez that he would go on with negotiations for democratic parliamentary elections in the spring.

The Minister for Trade Union Relations, Enrique Olea Mata, has meanwhile said that all trade union groups in Spain will be legalised by May 1.

He made the statement to Otto Kerstens, Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Mr. de la Mata stated that Spanish unions would be allowed to take part in the annual conference in June of the International Labour Organisation.

Mr. Kerstens said the Spanish government was ready to negotiate directly with the trade union organisations, once they were legalised, on the dismantling of the present union organisation.



LUNCHEON FOR A KING -- Spain's King Juan Carlos takes a lunch break Tuesday to nibble on sandwiches with Gen. Jaime Milán del Bosch, the main senior officer to protest when generals younger and reputedly more liberal than he were promoted to head the civil guard and the armed police. The king was visiting military installations near Madrid (AP wirephoto).



RESCUED -- Mrs. Elizabeth Butcher, 70, clutches her dog as she is rescued from her home at Mt. Sterling, Ohio, Tuesday by chopper (background). Mrs. Butcher, her grandson and her dog were taken from their home that was nearly out of fuel oil. (AP wirephoto).

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Dangerous signs

Several months ago, we commented in this space about the discouraging situation of traffic signs in Amman, the discouraging aspect being that these signs are not obeyed. At that time, we thought, perhaps it would take several weeks for the new signs placed at the capital's many traffic circles to be noticed by drivers, or even for the traffic department to start an enforcement campaign. Neither seems to have happened, so we are back with another plea to the traffic authorities of the country.

The idea of the traffic signs at the circles (telling drivers that cars within the circle have priority over cars entering the circle) was an excellent one. The traffic regulation itself is sensible to the point of metaphysical glory. But it is not being put into effect, and the traffic signs are routinely ignored. There is a double danger in this kind of thing which we are not happy to live with. The first is that driving in the traffic circles is still as chaotic and dangerous as ever. The second is that if one can routinely ignore traffic signs, then how can we expect any kind of respect for authority to be developed in the country? If we don't obey traffic signs, how big a step up is it for us to ignore traffic lights, traffic tickets, parking signs, or, in the end, income taxes and the laws of the land? The respect of the citizen for his society's laws is everywhere based upon the principle that disobeying the law leads to some sort of punishment. In the lowly case of the traffic circle signs, this is not evident. Thus approaching drivers fly through the traffic circles without a care about who is inside the circle, and the result is both dangerous traffic chaos and an equally dangerous disregard for the law. If someone knows that he or she can ignore traffic signs with impunity, then isn't that person subsequently tempted to ignore other laws?

It seems to us that there are only two real options here. Either the signs are kept up and the law is enforced, or the signs are taken down and the law is retracted. (The third option, which often comes about, is for the wind to blow the signs down and for nobody to bother about them, but this is not the kind of option one chooses rationally). Our concern in this matter is that neither option has been adopted, and dangerous confusion reigns. Where confusion reigns, rational social development has little chance to bear fruit.

It also seems to us that actually enforcing the law is an easy matter. The use of mass communications media such as television, radio and newspapers will spread the word quickly. A few fines or suspended driving licences will give everyone fresh incentive to obey the traffic signs and we would end up both with safer traffic circles and a healthier respect for the law.

If this is not done, the signs should be taken down. If it is done, the signs should be anchored to the ground so the wind cannot blow them over. The symbolism of such a move would be beautiful.

June deadline approaches for U.S. Navy to leave Bahrain

By John K. Cooley

The Christian Science Monitor
News Service

MANAMA, BAHRAIN -- "We are sticking by our decision that it is better to terminate the U.S. Navy facilities here," said Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifeh, Bahrain's Foreign Minister. "Let's keep the U.S.-Bahrain relationship based on mutual interest -- banking, business, culture. Military relationships have a way of leading to misunderstandings."

"If we do move out of the Jufair port installation in 1977," says a senior U.S. Navy officer, "we will lose much more than just the only U.S. naval command ashore between Subic Bay, in the Philippines, and the Mediterranean."

"Our presence means more than just showing the U.S. flag in the Gulf. It contributes to the stability of a highly volatile area. It would be a bad international signal to our many friends in these countries if we leave now."

These are two of the opposing arguments on Bahrain's Jufair facilities, which the U.S. Navy has used since 1949. The current lease agreement expires in mid-1977.

The issue will require some careful thinking and early decisions by the new Carter administration in Washington. There are veiled hints from all concerned here in Bahrain that secret talks already are under way to find a solution.

If the U.S. Navy's Middle East Force, commanded by Rear Adm. William J. Korwe Jr. and usually including the 16,000-ton command ship La Salle and a brace of destroyers, is to leave by the June 1977 deadline, it must soon begin dismantling the operation and seeking new options and assignments for ships and personnel.

The Navy force's operations cover the Gulf, the Arabian and Red Seas, and the Indian Ocean. Its facilities here now are complemented by the new

U.S. naval air and communications installations at Diego Garcia Island, far out in the Indian Ocean.

The Soviets have more than counterbalanced the force's existence by activation and use of their naval and air facilities in Somalia, on the East African coast.

A U.S. destroyer based at Bahrain was ordered to Kenya from its Indian Ocean patrol as a deterrent during threats against Kenya by Uganda following last July's Israeli rescue of hijacked airline hostages from Uganda's Entebbe Airport.

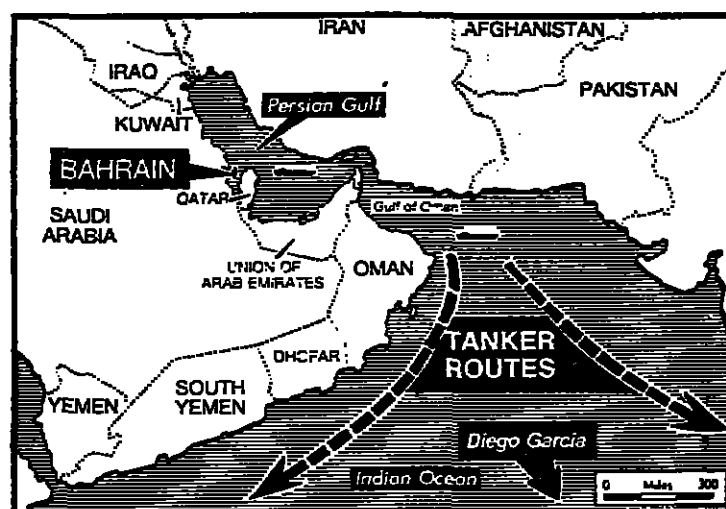
The U.S. force's ships, assisted by the La Salle's telecommunications gear, help to keep track of the growing volume of Soviet and other naval and air activities along the vital tanker lanes reaching out south and east of here toward the Far East and the southern tip of Africa.

helping Bahrain aspire to be an international financial market like Singapore, which is admired as a model here and with which Bahrain already has close commercial relations.

The U.S. Navy, however, sees it difficult if not impossible to acquire substitute shore installations for the pier space here, which together with a few buildings ashore, is rented for about \$4 million annually.

The referendum in strategic French-ruled Djibouti (Territory of the Afars and Issas) this spring, if it ends the French presence there, will probably rule out Djibouti's excellent strategic harbour for U.S. naval visits. Port visits in Ethiopia now are rare and delicate operations because of the instability of that Red Sea country's military regime.

"We do hope," says Sheikh Mohammad, "that the school at Jufair will stay on." The



A single U.S. Navy C-131 plane, based at Muharrag, Bahrain's busy international airport, from which Concorde and other large airliners link this island to the world, flies to leave by the June 1977 deadline, it must soon begin dismantling the operation and seeking new options and assignments for ships and personnel.

The Jufair issue is not souring U.S.-Bahraini relations, according to both Sheikh Mohammad and the U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain, Watt Cluvers.

There are some indications that the U.S. side hopes a possible way of keeping the facilities might be to extend to Bahrain the "on the job" training the Middle East Force already is giving the fledgling Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti, Qatari and United Arab Emirates navies -- if Bahrain, which has no navy now, and which spends little on defence, decides to have one.

For Sheikh Mohammad, however, the issue is settled. "Times have changed," he says. "What we need now is not more military activities, but more links like the new once-weekly, nonstop, 13-hour Bahrain-to-New York service," inaugurated by Pan Am Dec. 8.

Air links, excellent telecommunications by satellite, and 32 new offshore banks, four of which are American, are

Bahraini School, as the institution operated by the Navy is called, has about 600 students, including children of U.S. military and oil company families from Bahrain and nearby Dharan in Saudi Arabia, as well as British expatriates.

Bahraini and other Arab and non-Arab children are enrolled there from kindergarten through high school. A Jufair School trustees board, consisting of concerned parents and local educators, is weighing how to ease transition to control by the Bahrain Education Ministry if it comes.

Jufair's status has been frequently in doubt since the old arrangement with the former British forces here was changed to a U.S.-Bahraini agreement in 1971, when Bahrain became fully independent from Britain.

Under an exchange of letters, the number of U.S. technicians stationed here was increased to 260, and offices, warehouses and recreation facilities were leased. Then-Secretary of State William R. Rogers visited Bahrain in July 1972, declaring that the "facilities are a provocation to no one."

But heavy criticism by Bahrain's Arab neighbours, especially Iraq, and Arab nationalist feeling here during the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war led the ruler, Emir Issa bin Salman Al Khalifeh, to de-

Third Circle Phantasmic Hands across the ocean

The increasing amount of talk about creating some kind of Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza has set me to thinking about the matter, and I am pleased to say that I have come up with what I believe are some realistic proposals about this very important and very delicate subject.

The future West Bank state for the Palestinians has pretty much been agreed upon by all the Arabs as a feasible idea. The only thing that still has to be resolved is how this state will be linked to its neighbours, which means primarily Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and possibly sometime in the future, Israel. But I think that this is a question that will only be decided fully over time, by the natural intermingling of the people in this area. I think it may be too difficult a matter to be resolved quickly, and thus I suggest that the best course, both for the short term and for the long term, is to have the Palestinian state linked to Puerto Rico. This is an eminently sensible idea.

Neither Palestine nor Puerto Rico by themselves are economically viable units, so getting them together would be good for both of them. If they could form something such as The Great Confederal People's Democratic Republic of the Sovereign States of Palestine and Puerto Rico (GCPDRSSPPR), they would both become stronger countries. In the realm of tourism, for example, one could imagine great exchanges of technical knowledge and experienced personnel taking place immediately.

A fast money-maker would be the new confederal flag, which could have the initials GCPDRSSPPR emblazoned in different sizes all across the flag, which could then be sold to eye doctors to be used as an eye chart to test people's vision.

The formation of the GCPDRSSPPR would satisfy the nationalistic aspirations of both sides. This would immediately bring calm to the Middle East and to New York City, two of the world's most important economic regions, and so one would have reason to believe that Palestinian-Puerto Rican unity would be a major boost to the international economic recovery.

Another important point is that the GCPDRSSPPR would provide a crucially important link between the Palestinian people and the United States. As Puerto Rico is an American commonwealth territory, its joining up with Palestine would indirectly form a link between Palestine and the USA. Thus if Israel were ever to attack Palestine, the United States would find itself morally and legally obligated, through the new Puerto Rico connection, to

defend the Palestinians against the Israeli attack. What this offers, therefore, is the only practical and workable kind of deterrent for the Middle East region that has ever come across my desk. This way the Israelis could not attack the Palestinians, and the Palestinians would also stop calling the Americans nasty names. Furthermore, if any Palestinian leaders were to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York, the problem of carrying a gun would be resolved by having the gun registered with the proper American authorities. Because of the Puerto Rico link again, a Palestinian citizen could do this.

On the economic front, both countries have vast experience in guerrilla warfare that they could profitably sell to other aspiring national groups on a commercial basis. I can imagine, for example, the establishment of a company called GCPDRSSPPR, Inc., that would act as consultant to guerrilla groups in Africa. The firm could offer custom-designed guerrilla warfare packages tailored to any particular terrain or needs. With the Puerto Ricans' experience in U.S. cities, and the Palestinians' knowhow in the Middle East and internationally, truly worldwide commercial service can be offered. As most national guerrilla groups are well supplied with money, this sort of things could bring in sorely needed foreign exchange to finance development efforts in both Palestine and Puerto Rico.

Finally, this new confederal relationship could serve as an example of truly mutually advantageous global cooperation. Neither side would seek to exploit the other or gain any more than it offers. If this kind of relationship can be shown to be effective, it conceivable that other geo-political units may wish to join it. I think particularly of New Jersey, which now give far more to the federal U.S. government in Washington, D.C. that it get back in return. New York City is an other possibility, as a unit that obviously having difficulty in its dealings with both New York State and Washington, D.C. If the Palestinian-Puerto Rican confederal republic proved viable, I think New Jersey and New York City would think seriously about applying for membership, especially if they saw that they could really gain from the association.

The implications of this for the general Middle East situation are profound, in view of the fact that the largest group of American Jews lives in New York City. If these were to be associated with a Palestinian state, we would be on the road to true peace.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's warning that the U.S. force might be used if the industrial world faced "strangulation" of its oil sources here.

The Emir, however, renewed the agreement in March 1975, raising the rent then paid nearly six times and authorising a further increase of U.S.

personnel. In August, 1975, he dissolved the National Assembly, a move that was widely seen as a move to end the Jufair issue played only a minor role. The government's decision that the facilities would be to go by mid-1977, and this reflected a U.S.-Bahrain "understanding."

Special English. News Feature: Science in the News, News Summary, Now Music USA, News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, VOA Magazine, American Science, Cultural Letters. Special English. News. Special USA (Jazz). VOA World Report. News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary, Dateline.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies Wednesday commented on His Majesty King Hussein's opening speech at the seminar on Islamic thought, which started its meeting here Tuesday, while a third newspaper discussed Mr. Waldheim's forthcoming visit to the area.

AL RAY says that the King's speech has incited Islamic thinkers to work towards a constructive dialogue and has prepared a suitable atmosphere for it to be carried out.

The social, economic and cultural evolution which most Arab states are witnessing these days should be directed towards a single goal. By channelling this evolution towards such a goal, the paper adds, the Arabs would be helping to achieve Arab unity instead of hampering it by following diverse trends. Consequently, this channelling will prevent the Arabs from sidetracking the priorities of joint Arab action.

This social economic and cultural evolution which is changing the Arab bedouin and peasant societies into industrialised ones, should be given due attention and fully digested in order to achieve a modern society which does not forget or throw away our moral and intellectual heritage.

AL DUSTOUR discusses the same subject and says that His Majesty's speech has clarified and pinpointed the manner in which Islamic thought should evolve, and the aims to be achieved by this evolution.

Arabs thinkers should take into consideration three factors, the paper says: They should keep away from the superficial level and dig into the roots, take our ancestors' work and achievements as guidelines for our present actions and adopt the method of constructive dialogue to treat the problems created by modern society.

As for the aim of this evolution, the paper says, it should enable our Arab society to face the enemy and achieve positive results for the Arab nation. Thinkers undoubtedly bear a great responsibility for preparing for the manner in which the evolution is to take place and for achieving the aims of such an evolution.

They are, therefore, invited to give an example of constructive dialogue, which is the cornerstone of a well-established democracy, in addition to providing a positive thought pattern, capable of putting into motion Arab society and making it attain the required strength. By doing so, they would have positively contributed to the betterment of the future of the Arabs, the paper concludes.

AL SHA'B comments on Mr. Waldheim's forthcoming visit to the area by saying that the U.N. secretary general, before searching for peace opportunities, should investigate the conditions of the Arabs living under Israeli occupation, as well as the hardship and ill treatment of Arab detainees.

Once Israel's ill treatment of Arabs has been established, and their tragedy, which is the essential point in the conflict, known, then peace indicators and opportunities will be easier to find, the paper says. Mr. Waldheim is requested to visit the Israeli prisons in order to inform world public opinion about his findings, the paper says.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)

7:00 Morning melodies
7:30 News
7:40 News report
8:00 Sign off
12:00 Pop session
13:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session
14:00 News
14:10 Radio magazine
14:30 Arabs in history
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Old favourites

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:

6:00 Quran
6:05 Children's programme
6:30 English by television
7:00 Young Dr. Kildare
8:00 News in Arabic

Channel 3:

7:30 Science and life
8:30 Arabic series

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:
Amman: Tariq Kayali (30273)
Awmi Hawamdeh (72350)
Irbid: Al Far
Zarqa: Omar Qasrawi
Ahmad Jahmani
Zarqa: Ghazi Fayad
Pharmacies:
Amman: Ejbeh (72068)
Grand (84511)

Jacob (44945)
Sukkar (25041)
Irbid: Al Far
Zarqa: Omar Qasrawi
Ahmad Jahmani
Zarqa: Ghazi Fayad
Al Hussein Youth City (51423)
Rainbow (37249)
Abil (21127)
Talak (25021)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:

8:00 Cairo (EA)
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain
8:40 Kuwait
8:50 Dharan, Baghdad
10:30 Beirut
11:25 Rawalpindi (BA)
16:00 Kuwait (KAC)
17:00 Cairo
17:10 London
17:40 Copenhagen, Vienna
18:55 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
20:20 Riyadh (SDI)
20:40 Beirut (MEA)

Departures:

6:10 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (Lufthansa)
8:00 Beirut
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:45 Cairo (EA)
10:00 Athens, Madrid
12:10 London (BA)
12:30 Rome, Paris
16:45 Kuwait (KAC)
21:30 Riyadh, Dharan (SDI)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue " 24391-4
Fire headquarters " 22090
First aid, fire, police " 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) " 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency) " 37111-3
Police headquarters " 39141
Najfeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help " 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres
American Centre (USIS) Tel. 41520
British Council " 36147-8
French Cultural Centre " 37009
Goethe Institute " 41983
Soviet Cultural Centre " 44203
Amman Municipal Library " 36111

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

03:00 The Breakfast Show : 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT : News, Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 06:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary, Dateline.
17:30

BBC RADIO

05:00 News: 24 hours
05:30 Sarah Ward
05:45 The World Today
06:00 News: Press Review
06:30 An Anthology of British Choral
07:00 News: 24 hours
07:30 Sarah Ward
08:45 Origins of Industry
08:00 News
08:15 Dances of Old Vienna
08:30 Farming World
09:00 News: UK Press Review
09:15 The World Today
09:30 Financial News
09:45 Music Now
10:15 Just a minute
11:00 News
11:15 A History of Food
11:30 What Future for Nuclear Power?
12:00 Radio Newsreel
12:15 Top Twenty
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News: 24 hours

13:30 Paperbacks
13:45 Radio Theatre
14:30 Matthew on Music
15:00 Radio Newsreel
15:15 Outlook
16:00 News: Commentary
16:15 Come to the Opera
16:45 The World Today
17:00 News
17:09 People and Politics
17:40 Book Choice
17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News: Radio Newsreel
18:30 Take It or Leave It
19:00 News: Outlook
19:42 Stock Market
19:45 Beat It Black
20:00 World News: 24 hours
20:30 A Jolly Good Show
21:15 People and Politics
21:30 The King's Singers
21:45 Paperbacks
22:00 News: The World Today
22:25 Financial News
22:35 The Melody Makers
22:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News: Commentary

مركز الصحافة



Highness Crown Prince Hassan visits the Third Royal Armoured Division and inspects a number of its units Tuesday. (JNA photo).

Air agreement concluded with Philippines

AMMAN (JNA). — The Philippine civil aviation delegation left Amman today at the end of a four day visit to Jordan during which it had preliminary talks with Jordanian officials on concluding a bilateral air transport agreement between Jordan and the Philippines.

The talks are scheduled to be resumed in Manila later this year after completion of studies by the two countries' national carriers for operating flights between both countries.

Azraq Oasis protected zone for birds

PARIS (JNA). — It has been decided to regard the Azraq Oasis in Jordan as an internationally protected region for migratory birds, following Jordan's accession to the agreement for the protection of water areas of international importance.

The Royal Nature Conservation Society had applied last year for membership and for declaring Azraq Oasis as a protected region to protect its environment for being a station for migratory birds from Europe to Africa and vice versa. It has been reported that over one million birds stop over at Azraq Oasis every year.



Her Majesty Queen Alya visits Jordan Television Station Tuesday. (JNA photo).

Economic committee adopts Jordan's investment law

AMMAN (JNA). — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee Wednesday resumed its meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to discuss the working paper which was drawn up during its meetings Tuesday.

The committee adopted the Jordanian Encouragement of Investment Law as the basis for the unified law to be used in both countries.

The committee also discussed the urgent amendments that were added to the same law, the means of attracting Arab and foreign capital, and the privileges that will be granted to investors, and projects of investment.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.K. sterling | 573.0 | 579.0 |
| U.S. dollar | 333.0 | 335.0 |
| German mark | 138.2 | 138.6 |
| French franc | 67.1 | 67.4 |
| Swiss franc | 132.7 | 133.1 |
| Italian lira (for every 100) | 37.9 | 38.1 |
| Saudi riyal | 94.5 | 95.5 |
| Lebanese pound | 110.0 | 111.0 |
| Syrian pound | 82.1 | 82.2 |
| Iraqi dinar | 945.0 | 955.0 |
| Egyptian pound | 1.135 | 1.140 |
| Libyan dinar | 450.0 | 470.0 |
| UAE dirham | 75.0 | 86.0 |

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ANOTHER VIEWPOINT ...

Nobody's fault, of course!

On Jan. 30, 77 we were working late to finish a complicated technological offer so as to hand it in to the authorities on the following morning. Our group consisted of five Polish specialists who arrived from Warsaw beside myself. Suddenly around midnight the head of the delegation was taken ill. He felt pain in the stomach. We thought nothing but a normal ache that would certainly pass within the hour. However the pain persisted and worsened, until three in the morning, when after having left the office, he was in agony, in his hotel room.

One member of the group analysed the pain as a kidney attack, as he had previously gone through the ordeal. I left the office and at the reception I called information and asked what number to call in case of emergencies. The man on the line answered by connecting me to a hospital, and asked that numbers in question should be in the papers. We did try some numbers in the papers, such as private doctors, but were unsuccessful, some were too tired and some suggested the hospital. I got a connection with the hospital,

"Yes?"
"Are you a nurse?" I asked
"Yes, I am"

"Maam, this is an emergency, a friend of mine, we think, has a kidney attack and we are afraid to move him, could you please advise us what to do?"

"Do you have a car?"

"Yes"

"Then put him in a car and bring him here"

"But maam, we are afraid to move him, we are not sure that we should, he is in great pain, could you please send an ambulance?"

"No, I'm sorry, but we do not have any ambulances at this time of the night"

"But it is an emergency. Then could you send a doctor here?"

"I'm sorry, but our doctor is not feeling well and we do not usually send doctors out"

"Then give me a doctor's number - who is on call now?"

"I'm sorry, I only work here at the hospital, I do not have numbers of doctors"

"Madame - what am I to do?"

"Bring him here..."

It went on for a few minutes in this manner. I got fed up and knew it was no use.

Half an hour had passed and my friend was still in terrible pain. What if he had a heart attack? acute appendicitis? or if he needed to be operated on immediately?"

Anyway, remembering that there was a doctor's sign in the vicinity I ran out and luckily found the sign and the doctor. Within ten minutes he was dressed and taking care of my friend. It was a kidney attack and quite serious. My friend was treated and all is well.

This situation is of course nobody's fault. What I am trying to point out is the following. If you ever get in the same situation do not expect things to happen quickly, if you do, as I did, then a minute seems half an hour, and you are not able to size up the situation so as to take positive action. Especially if you are someone who does not speak or read Arabic. There are services, but it is up to you to take the action because from just stating news that there is someone very ill and in need of help immediately, will not give you a quick reaction.

Paul Ungurian,
Amman, Jordan.

Phosphate production increases by 42% for September

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's production of phosphate totaled 127,000 tons during September, 1976, with an increase of 42 per cent as against the same period in 1975.

Other products of the same period were 46,000 tons of cement, 195 tons of cigarettes, 800 kg. of tobacco, 13,000 tons of different kinds of fuel, and 12 tons of shoe leather.

NATIONAL NOTES

AMMAN. — The University of Jordan, represented by Prof. Yapha Zarga, will attend the 11th meeting on Islamic thought held in Algeria Feb. 6-15.

AMMAN. — In a memorandum sent to the Arab League secretary Wednesday, Jordan approved the Iraqi request to hold the conference of Arab ministers of youth and sports in Baghdad in July.

AMMAN. — The Cabinet Wednesday delegated the Free Zone's assistant Director, Mr. Ismat Abu Su'ud, to attend the seminar on the organization and administration of free zones due to be held in Port Said, Egypt, Mar. 18-Apr. 2.

AMMAN. — The Moroccan government Wednesday approved candidacy of the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Naji Abdul Aziz to the post of director of the Arab Labour Organisation.

AMMAN. — The Cabinet Wednesday delegated Mr. Ahmad Jarrayah from the Ministry of Supply and Mr. Arfan Rohi from the Ministry of Agriculture to take delivery, and supervise the shipment, of 20,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 tons of barley purchased from Syria.

AMMAN. — The Cabinet Wednesday approved the purchase of the Jordanian Consumers Corporation of JD 2 million worth miscellaneous goods to stock its various branches prior to serving government employees.

AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated Chief Chamberlain, Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, to present his condolences to the Al Awamleh family on the death of Mohammad Abd Al Hussein Awamleh.

AMMAN. — The Public Security Director Maj.-Gen. Ghazi Bhiyat, Wednesday made an inspection tour of the Badia police stations in the north of the Kingdom.

Housing Bank deposits reach JD 1.5 m. in Jan.

AMMAN (JNA). — 4234 savings accounts with a total value of about JD 1.5 million were opened at the Housing Bank January, the Housing Bank director, Mr. Zuhair Khoury said here Wednesday. The deposits at the bank have increased by about JD 1.8 million during that period bringing the total value of deposits end of January to about 24.6 million, Mr. Khoury added.

On the bank's available liquidity, Mr. Khoury said that it has more than JD 6.5 million for that purpose.

The large number of savings accounts opened during January is the result of the bank's new policy which is started beginning 1977 and which consists in granting prizes to depositors, to encourage small ones to save.



Jordan's ambassador to Greece, Mr. Fawwaz Abu Al Ghanam, is being introduced to the high ranking officials of the Greek government on the occasion of his presenting his letters of credence to the president of the republic, in Athens last month.

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JIMMY CARTER FACE TO FACE WITH GLOBAL REALITY - III

Eurocommunism puts the wind up post-cold war America

By Takashi Oka

ROME, (CSM). — "Eurocommunism" and its Japanese extension challenge Western democracy on a front not enough attention is paid to the moral. Eurocommunism, according to Prof. William Griffith of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a "reformist version of radical Marxism which emphasises, in contrast to Leninism, the peaceful, parliamentary transition to socialism led by a broad coalition of leftist forces and thereafter allegiance to civil liberties, a multiparty system and peaceful rotation of parties in office. . . (It) is national communism: It insists on the independence of all Communist parties, especially from Soviet domination."

Among the most active exponents of Eurocommunism are the Communist parties of Italy, France and Japan. In the United States, President-elect Jimmy Carter has repeatedly called for a restoration of America's moral fibre and greatness. The premise of that call is Christian and democratic.

In Europe and in Japan, some young people are turning to Marx and accepting the discipline of the Communist Party, seeing this as committing themselves to right the wrongs of the society they live in.

These young people are not a majority. But most of them are sincere. Most of them are idealistic. Most of them appear to be well-informed.

"To me, Marxism is not a dogma, but a creative method," says Giovanni Annunziata of Naples, Italy.

"I have never felt so free as when I became a Communist," says Dennis Triclot of Paris.

"Communism is a point of view that emphasises the importance of people," says Mrs. Noriko Watanabe of Tokyo.

Mr. Annunziata became a Communist when he was a 16-year-old high-school student.

Mr. Triclot, at the time I met him, was a student at the Institute of Political Science, popularly known as "Sciences Po", and one of France's top academic institutions. He had spent a year as an exchange student in an American high school.

Mrs. Watanabe, a designer, joined the Japanese Communist Party on her own a couple of years ago. Her husband, although sympathetic, is not a member.

One final quote, this time from Emanuela de Zorzi, a French teacher in Rome. "I joined the Communist Party," she said, "because in Italy, if you are looking for a way to change society in a legal and orderly manner, this is the only way."

It might be argued that these are young people who have been taken in by the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing and that a day of awakening will surely come. This may be so. But today, neither in Italy nor in France nor in Japan is the Communist Party a small conspiratorial band. In all three countries, it is a mass party, with hundreds of thousands of members, most of whom have joined up since World War II.

There are those such as Harvard Prof. Adam Ulam — of that university's Russian Research Centre and an expert on communism — who still utter words of caution. Prof. Ulam concedes that an exponent of Eurocommunism like Italy's Enrico Berlinguer may well be sincere in his commitment to Western parliamentary procedures whereby parties are voted out of power and then accept the verdict.

Prof. Ulam says, however, that there is a second layer of hard-liners in the Italian Communist Party who could conceivably push Mr. Berlinguer aside at some later date. And there is also the possibility that Communists in power in a parliamentary democracy over a period of time might resort to covert electoral chicanery to try to thwart a genuine voters' verdict against them.

Yet, there persists the question: In open societies such as those of Italy, France and Japan, where even Communist parties are accountable to the public, could voters be deceived by Eurocommunists (if it be deceit on such a grand scale)?

This is, in a sense, the dilemma that noncommunists of conscience, loyal to the democratic system and to the individual's freedom of choice, face when grappling with the phenomenon called Eurocommunism.

All men of conscience know the record of communism in

the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe. Stalin's grasp of absolute power, his purges, his interference in the activities of Communist parties in Western Europe and elsewhere, as well as the brutal intervention of his successors in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, are matters of public record.

If the Communist parties of countries like Italy or France or Japan were simply agents of a monolithic movement headquartered in Moscow, then it would not be difficult to show such parties in their true colours.

But they apparently are not. In major West European countries, they are attracting to their ranks the kind of people that any democratic party would love to have — eager, enthusiastic, ready to work.

Many outsiders are forced to the conclusion that in countries like France, or Italy, or Japan, something is drastically wrong with the structure of society, or with the pace of social and political change, and that among the parties offering plans and programmes aimed at attacking this fundamental problem, the Communists deserve at least a fair hearing.

It is above all in France and Italy that communism's electoral strength lies. In France, the Communist Party regularly polls one-fifth of the total vote. In Italy the party has increased its share of the vote to one-third. In Japan it is still at the 10 per cent level. But if the Japanese party continues to grow as it has in the past two decades — party membership rising from 30,000 to 380,000 today; seats in parliament from just one to 19 in the lower house and to 20 in the upper — it should have credible hopes of sharing power some time in the 1980s.

The Italian Communist Party is closest to achieving governmental power. Already Premier Giulio Andreotti's minority Christian Democratic administration depends on Communist votes to stay in office. If Italy's severe economic crisis does not ease by the spring, a coalition government including Communists is a possibility.

Veteran West European democrats like Willy Brandt of West Germany are sceptical of Italian Communist claims that they will be loyal members both of the European Economic Community and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Italy's position in NATO is central to the defence of the Mediterranean, and Enrico Berlinguer's statement last June that he feels more secure because of Italy's being in NATO still is not accepted at face value by Italy's NATO partners.

withdrawal from this position would upset the balance.

NATO should not be a follow-the-leader type of alliance, says Sergio Segre, Italian Communist Party spokesman on foreign affairs, but a genuine defensive partnership. One has the impression that the party's present stance on NATO is a holding action, designed to deflect criticism that it would take Italy out of the alliance, and that a more definitive policy will be worked out only when the party is in a position to carry it out; that is, has achieved power.

cal moves, however, and Communist Party officials still insist they wholeheartedly oppose the security treaty and want an independent, neutral, armed Japan that would place itself politically in the not aligned camp.

These attitudes in turn pose another dilemma for democratic allies of these countries and principally for the United States.

Should non-Communist parties be supported, both politically and financially as they have been in Italy and in Gaullist France, just because they are non-Communist as regards, in the case of a "corruption and scandal" which tend to alienate the most idealistic elements of the population from them?

Hitherto, the answer has been: yes — even if we had to hold our noses while doing it. In his election campaign President Carter in effect rejected: No.

He must now face all the practical implications of his answer.

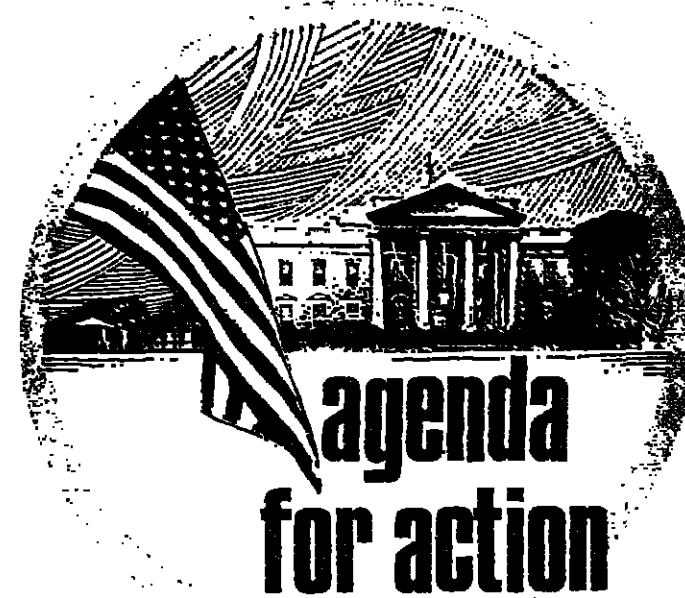
Outright financial aid of a kind previously offered through Central Intelligence Agency channels to conservative Italian politicians is obviously a but making clear Washington political preferences in a manner that is forthright without being generally perceived as a resented as interference in Italy's domestic affairs is shot or matter.

Easy enough to articulate theory, this is an exercise in exceedingly delicate to carry in practice.

An American answer to the appeal of Eurocommunism to many of those seeking morality in government, Western Europe and Japan to be seen across both the Atlantic and the Pacific as a chivalrous and unassuming authentic successors of Jefferson and Thomas Paine.

If the American Revolution is to be recognised as relevant and applicable to the problems of today, it can and must if an appropriate answer to a new challenge of Marx, a his heirs.

Next: Energy — the problem of being hooked on oil.



No Communist leader this correspondent spoken to has shown any enthusiasm for NATO. There is a persistent image, which is even stronger among rank-and-file members, that NATO as now constituted serves American superpower purposes and not that of the European allies.

The Italian Communists' argument for not getting out of NATO is tactical. They acknowledge that world peace rests upon a balance of forces between the Western and Soviet blocs, that Italy is in the Western bloc, and that a unilateral

The French Communist Party is much more openly hostile to NATO, while in Japan the Communists — like the larger Socialist Party — insist that they will sever their country's security treaty with the United States.

Recently the Japanese Socialists have said that the question is not urgent, and the Communists are proposing a "provisional government" focussing on uprooting political corruption and not including the abolition of the security treaty among its objectives. These are considered tactical

Polish Germans flow into West Germany; but some want to return

UNNA-MASSEN, West Germany, (CSM). The class of 21 cheerful and lively first-graders had just put their coats on to go outside for a little playtime. But the teacher had them sit down for a few minutes so this unexpected visitor could talk with them.

Only five of them spoke German, the rest Polish. The teacher spoke only German.

These youngsters and their parents were living in a transit centre here on their way to restarting their lives in West Germany. They are all Polish Germans, part of some 120,000 to 125,000 who will leave Poland over a four-year period under agreements signed by the two governments in 1975.

They come from formerly German areas that were incorporated into Poland after World War II. They are Polish citizens. But since 1951 West Germany also has considered them its citizens.

Some 2,600 of these ethnic Germans are coming out of Poland each month now, and half of them pass through this centre in Unna-Massen to settle somewhere in North Rhine-Westphalia. This is West Germany's most populous state.

Each year West Germany absorbs more than 30,000 Germans from Poland and nearly 11,000 Germans from other East European countries and the Soviet Union. Only the Polish Germans are automatically citizens, but the others soon obtain citizenship.

All of the families that were interviewed said a primary reason for leaving Poland was to be able to raise their children as Germans. Unlike Czechoslovakia and Romania, Poland does not officially recognise any minorities. The West German government has been told by Polish authorities that the Polish constitution does not allow such recognition.

One practical result is that most children of German families still living in Poland do not learn German. There are no German schools for them, nor are there German-language newspapers (except for weekly editions of the large Polish dailies that are intended for East Germany).

Only in Wrocław (Breslau) are there German-language church services. German-language cultural groups are not permitted.

Students heading for university study can opt to study German in high school, but for Poles in general Russian is the first choice of a foreign language. And, since most of the ethnic Germans in Poland are either farmers or workers, few of their children would be eligible for the college-preparatory course.

Generally one finds a measure of mature response in West Germany to the Polish policy. The Foreign Ministry, for example, is quietly telling the Polish government it should relent and permit German schools, cultural activities and perhaps theatre for the German minority in its country.

It is impossible to say how many Germans remain in Poland. Alfred Bohman, a careful scholar of the situation, estimates there are at least 550,000 — some refugee organisations say 1 million.

Another expert, Klaus von Bismarck, says until 1970 many of these Polish Germans still hoped that their homelands would somehow be reunited into a larger Germany.

It was in 1970 that West Germany signed a treaty with Poland in which the postwar Oder-Neisse border was recognised. After the war, large portions of what had been Germany were annexed to Poland while Poland lost eastern territory to the Soviet Union. The Oder and Neisse rivers formed Poland's new border in the west.

Many of the Germans in Poland began in earnest to try to get out after 1970. Almost all of them have relatives in West Germany among the 9 million ethnic Germans who left Poland when the new borders were established. The German Red Cross sets the total of those who want to leave at 280,000 or more.

Dr. von Bismarck comes from the portion of Pomerania annexed to Poland after the war. For 15 years he was the top executive of West German radio. He has visited Poland 21 times since the war and recently did a long study of the Polish German refugee situation for the Evangelical Church in West Germany.

As a political independent, he stayed clear of the bitter political debate that swept West Germany last year before the agreements were signed. And his sympathy for the Polish people and their tragic history has led him to take positions and stands that have alienated him from many of the spokesmen for the refugee organisations in West Germany.

He wrote in his recent study for the Evangelical Church, for instance, that the lessons of history are against any reinstatement of the lost territories as German lands.

"It is time," he told this newspaper in an interview, "that the forces of war stop driving across Poland." He even said that it "may be the wisest thing for Germans remaining in Poland to not teach their children German and to let them integrate into society." His own Foreign Ministry does not express that view.

On the other hand, he says, "those who want to come out should be permitted to leave, and there are surely more than the 120,000, which is just a reasonable compromise for the present between the two governments."

Dr. von Bismarck told the church the present refugees must be accepted and welcomed "in the context of this moment in history."

The federal and state governments are doing what they can to help these newcomers, most of whom could bring only a minimum of belongings. And a family of four, for example, has to pay \$1,250 plus transportation to emigrate.

West Germany repays all these costs, gives a family of four \$200 in cash, puts them on unemployment payments, tests their professional abilities, re-trains some of them, and provides inexpensive housing for up to two years. And the government will loan each family \$5,000 to start building up household needs.

The refugees themselves say they are warmed by the way this help is offered them.

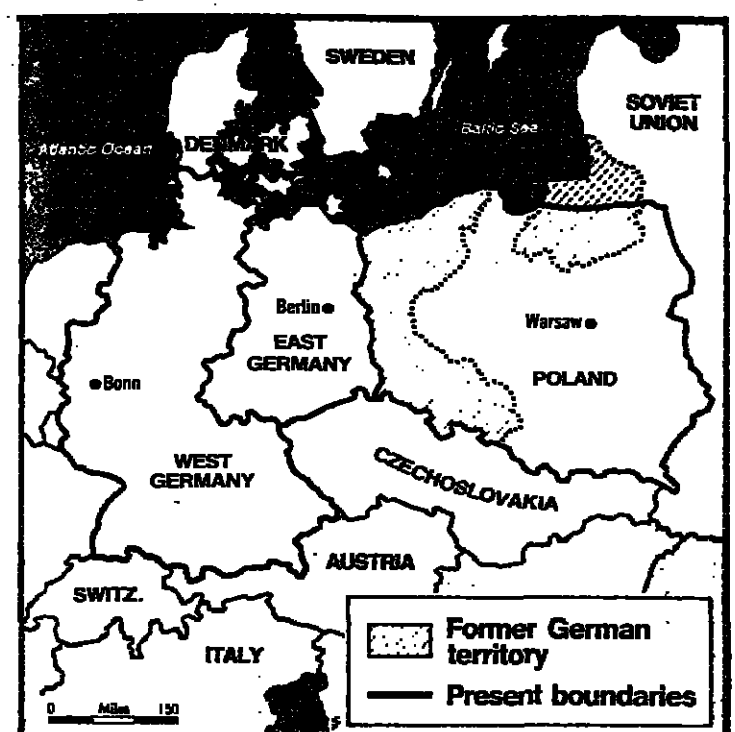
West Germany has about one million unemployed. But the refugees are not skilled workers and may settle in part for the simpler jobs of foreign workers have for years here.

One-quarter of the refugees have worked in factories plants. Some 15 per cent domestic work. Only two per cent had technical jobs were in specialised professions such as mining.

Yet in some of Poland's industrialised areas — and per cent of Poles now live in cities — 25 per cent of skilled workers are German partly German.

Apparently few of the skilled workers are being out. So this problem of German Poles or Polish Germans not by any means settled. If a solid beginning has been made.

A further complication that some of the refugees are wanting to go back to land. The Polish embassy Bonn says it has a list of 31 who want to go back. Slim put, they just do not fit in West Germany's industrial competitive society.



South Africa enters another year of racial uncertainty

By June Goodwin

JOHANNESBURG, (CSM). — At the end of the most eventful year in South Africa for more than 15 years, the only thing certain about the future is that change is inevitable in the system of apartheid, as the legal separation of the races here is called.

No one knows how fast or in exactly what way the changes will come. But an altering of thinking has begun both with blacks and with whites.

The independence of neighbouring Angola and Mozambique, following the procession to independence of a string of African states before them, was the watershed.

South African blacks said to one another that if blacks can rule in Mozambique and Angola, we should have more say over our own lives.

After Mozambique and Angolan independence, school students marched in Johannesburg's black township of Soweto and many paid for the protest with their lives.

After Mozambique and Angolan independence, whites became alarmed about the Marxist governments at their borders. First the mood among many young white men was: Why should we go to the border to defend a system (apartheid) we don't like? Gradually, their thinking has shifted back to a conviction that communism is worse than apartheid and must be fought.

The Nationalist government of Prime Minister John Vorster is trying its best to appear to be intransigent. The government's attitude is that apartheid is morally right and will continue.

But the substance behind the stance is a creeping alteration of the system: Open some parks to all races, allow mixed sports in some games, give black parents more power over their children's schools. But all the while, make a very loud noise about apartheid never changing so as to divert attention from the facts.



Communists in Cape Town, South Africa — The only thing certain in South Africa's minds is that change in the apartheid system is inevitable.

Still, the government needs to move on to bigger changes. Introducing electricity to all of Soweto would be dramatic and not even contrary to apartheid.

More difficult, but very effective, would be the transfer of Bantu (African) education to the purview of the national education department, thus fulfilling a demand of the students and moving to assuage discontent where it has been most violent.

Little by little — some say too little — whites are adapting. The thing they find most irritating is what they see as the double standard of Western, industrialised countries. Why, the whites ask, does the world continually condemn the injustices in South Africa when there are worse things happening in other African states?

It is a fair question. The answer is: Yes, there is a double standard. But it is white South Africans who have made it.

As long as whites claim, as the South African Broadcasting Company did in a radio commentary on Christmas Eve, that South Africa has a Western, civilised culture, South Africa will be treated differently from other countries in Africa.

More will be expected by Western countries of the whites in South Africa, because they themselves have claimed standards different from Uganda, Angola and Mozambique. Another aspect of the doubt

is standard is that journalists, although limited in what they can report from South Africa, often cannot even get inside some other African countries to report conditions there.

Many South Africans, both white and black, find the challenge they face this coming year exciting.

It is generally admitted that South Africa is going to be quite different from all the rest of Africa, where, in a 19-year sweep beginning with Ghana, colonialism has been replaced with a rainbow's variation of black governments. Africans are not demanding, not expecting, that whites will leave South Africa.

Because South Africa is the focus of many of the world's great issues — here where blacks meet whites en masse, where rich meets poor, and capitalism meets communism — the world can only pray for South Africa to gain an enlarged empathy for one another in the coming year.

In the face of increased violence by both black and white South Africans, the world can only hope that sensitivities will not be dulled.

The world for its part should confine itself to encouraging South Africans in the unknitting of the emotionally complex tangles that must be unravelled. That does not mean agreeing with whites' opinions or with blacks' opinions.

It means trying to neutralise all bitterness and to expand the idea of human dignity, a pillar concept of Western thought.

هكذا صوت القوم

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

oth vulnerable. South
als.

NORTH
♠ 432
♥ A3
♦ K3742
♣ A93

EAST
♠ Q107
♥ Q542
♦ 3
♣ K7642

SOUTH
♠ AK65
♥ K9
♦ AJ5
♣ Q1085

he bidding:
South West North East
NT Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠.

Here's another hand from
ddie Kantar's article on
suit "Combinations" from
e British *Popular Bridge*
azine. Test your declarer
ay by covering up the
st-West hands with your
umbs, then decide how you
ould tackle a no trump
me after West leads the
ck of hearts.

The auction is routine. All
at remains is for you to
ove that 28 high-card
ints are indeed sufficient
r you to make game.

The opponents have at-
cked your weak spot. You
ave seven running tricks,
d it looks as if it should be
usy to develop diamonds for
e two extra tricks. Even
the finesse fails, a 3-2 dia-
ond division will land your
ntract.

However, if you won the
opening heart lead in dummy
and tried the diamond fi-
nesse, you will go down.
West wins the queen of dia-

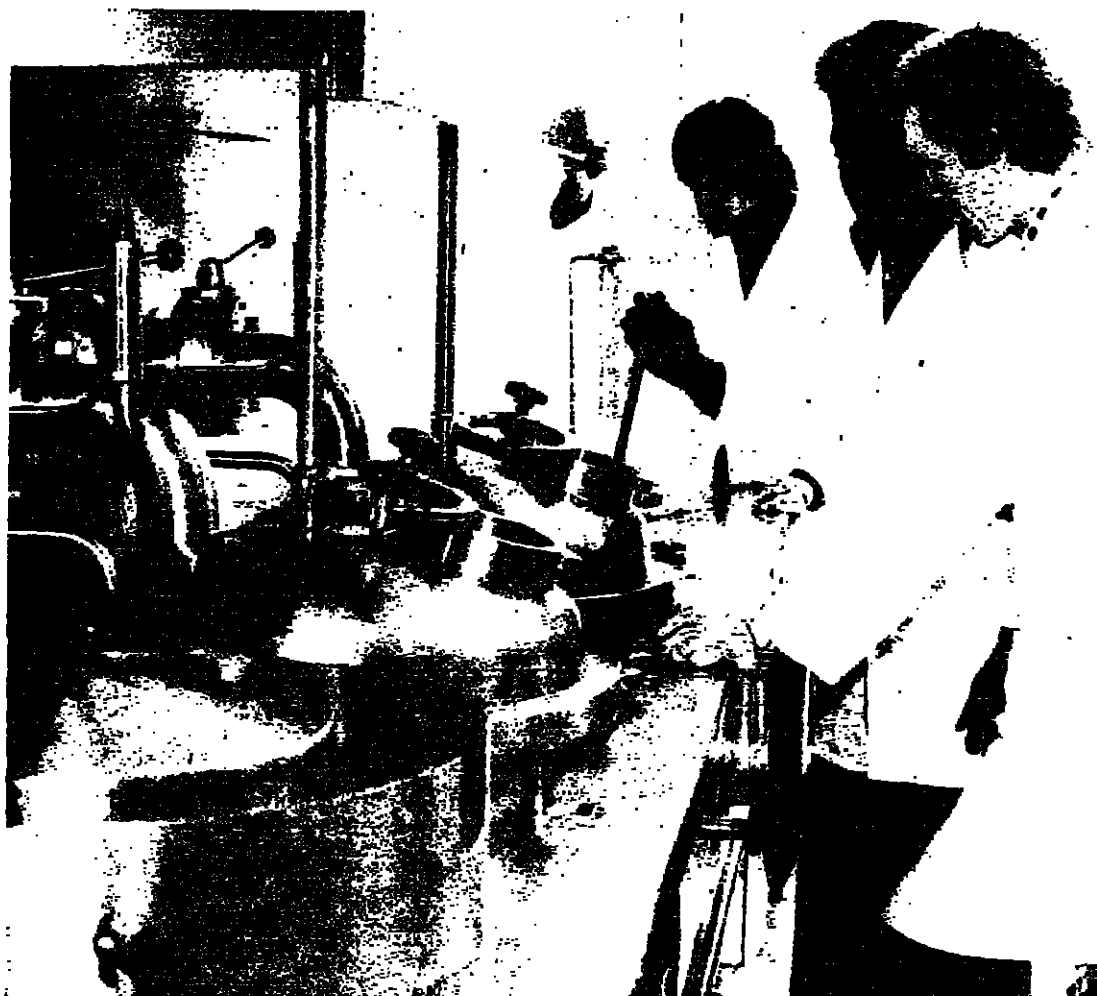
monds and knocks out your
remaining heart stopper.
Now when diamonds break
4-1, you have no way to de-
velop nine tricks without
first surrendering the lead,
and when you do, the oppo-
nents will take three heart
tricks to defeat you one
trick.

The careful declarer looks
to see if there is anything he
can do to circumvent a bad
break in the diamond suit.
He should realize that the
club suit offers an alterna-
tive chance, providing he
starts setting it up early
enough.

He would win the opening
heart lead in his hand and
lead a diamond to the king.
When he returns a low dia-
mond from dummy, he in-
tends finessing if East
follows suit—that guards
against East holding four
diamonds. When East shows
out on the second diamond,
declarer still has time to
switch horses.

He rises with the ace of
diamonds and now starts on
the clubs. His shrewd plan-
ning is rewarded when he
leads a low club to dummy
and West produces the jack.
Now it is a simple task to
force out the king of clubs
and make his contract via
two spades, two hearts, two
diamonds and three clubs.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



HUBBLE BUBBLE — Beer
is drunk nearly all over the
world, and many beer-drin-
kers will agree that German
beer ranks among the best.
Brewers certainly know that
the training a would-be bre-
wmaster is given in West
Germany takes some beat-
ing. Between 15 and 20 per
cent of brewing college gra-
duates come from foreign
countries to learn the finer
points of the trade. Here at
Gräfelfing, near Munich, stu-
dents of brewing are seen at
their vats. After serving ap-
prenticeships, brewers in the
Federal Republic are re-
quired to work three years in
the trade before they take
master's exams and qualify
as brewmasters.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 3, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unexpected conditions
can arise at this time and it's advisable that you maintain
poise and remember that opportunity could be knocking.
Make sure you are on the right track.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) There could be obstacles in
your path of progress early in the day. Be philosophical
and do less talking and more thinking.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't be forceful at home
because conditions are not as you like. Show more thought
and consideration for best results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Obtain the data you need
from the right sources. Go out of your way to visit loyal
friends tonight. Use care in motion.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Study your
monetary position well and know how much you can spend
in the future. Consult an expert for advice you need.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid one who has done you
harm in the past and could do more now if you permit. Try
to be more cheerful in dealing with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Do something
constructive about a private matter that has you worried.
Take no chances with your reputation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more thoughtful of your
friends since they could be under undue pressure at this
time. Show others you have wisdom.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Participate in public
affairs and make big headway with your career at the same
time. Be careful of strangers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have an
inspired idea which needs more study before you can make
a success of it. Sidestep a troublemaker.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't neglect
personal obligations early in the day. Use tact with your
mate and avoid quarrels. Be more cheerful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study new problems
in your line of endeavor and know what should be done in
the future. Be wary of outsiders.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Routine duties need to be
handled before you engage in a new and more promising
project. Make the evening a happy one.

GRAFFITI

PREVENT
COLDS.
DON'T
DRINK OUT
OF DAMP
GLASSES



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



GERMANY
Focke

"Well, at last we've found a parking space . . . now
if we're quick we'll be there for the third act."

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

CROWN COURT:
CRIME IN PASSION

A prison warden stands trial on a charge of bribery by one
of the prisoners.

THE QUEST:
DAY OF OUTRAGE

The two brothers help a woman to defend her ranch which
is coveted by her neighbour.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen
by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.
Don't you have anything to say to them?

To spread your word, contact the Jordan Times
advertising department by phone at 67171, or in person
at the Jordan Times - Al Ra'i building, on University
Road.

reJUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Inscramble these four Jumbles,
one letter to each square, to form
our ordinary words.

WATEK

INSEG

REVOND

HINBED

Now arrange the circled letters to
form the surprise answer, as sug-
gested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: CLOUT TITLE POLLEN MISFIT

Answer: Hanging for those who kiss in
public?—MISTLETOE

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"Boy, if you can keep up the premiums, your wife is
really going to be sitting pretty!"

APOLOGY

The Jordan Times apologises for the non-appear-
ance of the daily crossword. Our stocks have
literally run dry, and in the meantime we're
awaiting our next batch from our suppliers in
the U.S. We shall resume publication as soon as
is humanly possible.

OUT AND ABOUT

THE CROWN ROTISSERIE

Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.
Open daily for Executive
Luncheon 1-3 p.m. Special
International Buffet on Sun-
days. Dinner with live music
from 7 p.m. to midnight. For
reservation please call 41361
ext. 5.

QUICK MEAL

Restaurants for toasted
chicken and light snacks.
Take home, lunch or dinner.
Jabal Amman, First Circle.
Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luweib-
deh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646
Jabal Al Hussein, near Jeru-
salem Cinema. Tel. 21731.
Also in Zarke and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Chinese restaurant in
Jordan.
First Circle, Jabal Amman, near
the Ahliyah School or CMS.
Tel. 38968. Open daily from
noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
to midnight.
Also take home service - order
by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT

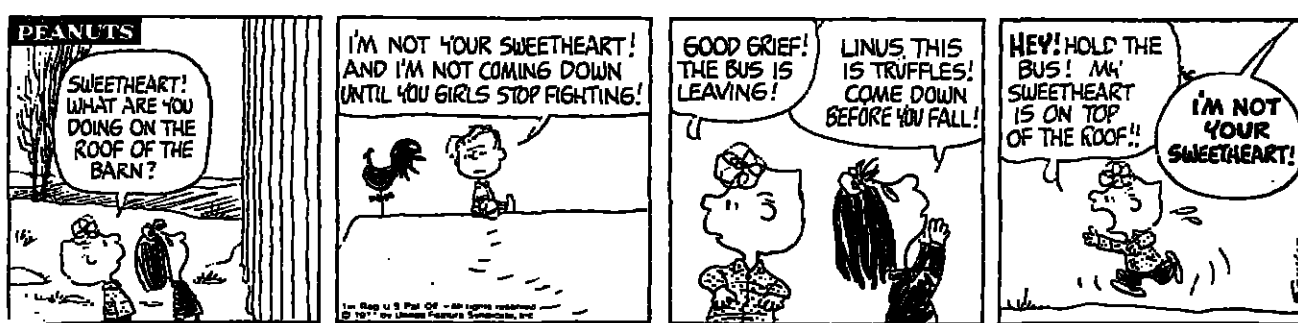
First Circle, Jabal Amman.
Tel. 25802.
Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Restaurant, coffee-shop, sn-
ack bar and patisserie.
Oriental and European spe-
cialties.

CHINA STEAKHOUSE

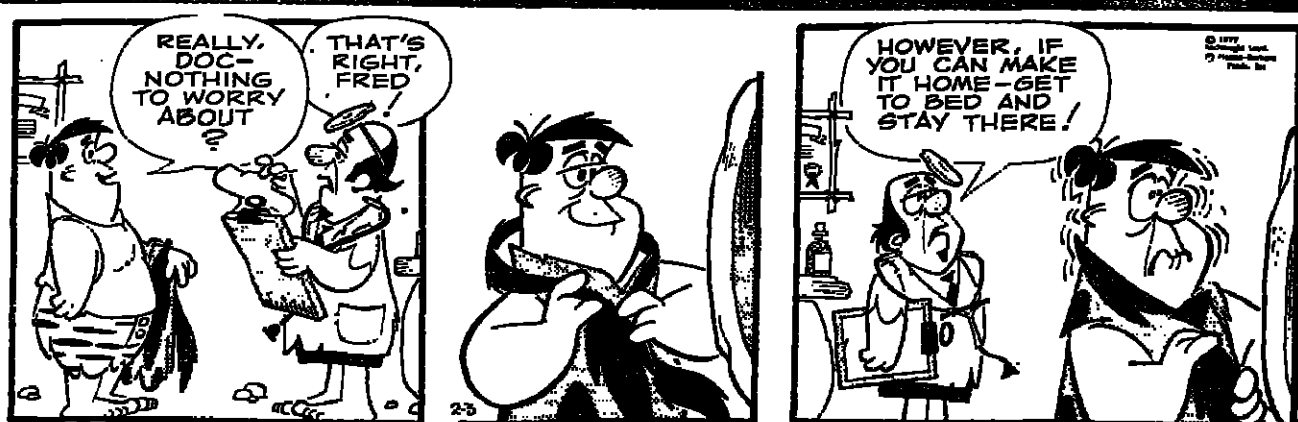
First Wings Hotel, Jabal
Al Luweibdeh. Tel. 22163/4.
Choice of THREE set me-
nues daily for lunch, and a
la carte.
Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12
p.m. Specialties: steaks.

For advertising in above columns contact
"Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 25802.
Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

THE FLINTSTONES



PEANUTS



MUTT AND JEFF



Top Indian politician quits Gandhi's party

NEW DELHI, Feb. 2 (AFP). — The elder statesman of India's ruling Congress Party, Agriculture Minister Jagjivan Ram, resigned today within seven weeks of a general election, saying the country was drifting towards disaster.

He called for an immediate end to the state of emergency proclaimed 18 months ago, repeal of censorship and security laws passed since then and release of political prisoners.

Mr. Ram, 69, who has served as a minister continuously since India's independence from Britain 30 years ago, said he would form a new political party. It would probably be called "Congress for Democracy" and would stand for restoring the decency and integrity that has gone from public life, he said.

He told a news conference here that his decision to resign was a personal one, but prominent members of the Congress Party who attended the conference said they too would quit. They included H. N. Bahuguna, former Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh, home state of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and Nandini Satpathy, former Chief Minister of the eastern state of Orissa.

An official announcement said Mrs. Gandhi advised Pres-

sident Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad to accept Mr. Ram's resignation. But Mr. Ram did not say how Mrs. Gandhi took the news of his departure.

In a statement distributed to the press, Mr. Ram said that since June 1975 developments had "generated the most ominous trends in our country, which seem to be reversing not merely the promises and professions of the Indian National Congress since 1969, but decency and integrity in public life and also the rudimentary norms of democracy."

India's elections to the lower house of parliament will be held on March 16, 18, 19 and 20, the Election Commission announced here today.

Mrs. Gandhi reacted angrily to what seemed to be a major split in the Congress Party.

She said it was strange Mr. Ram should have remained silent for so long, after being a cabinet member directly associated with every decision on national policies, and now ma-

ke what she called baseless charges.

Mr. Ram's resignation hit political circles like a bomb.

A meeting yesterday evening of the government electoral committee to choose the congressional candidates for the forthcoming elections was reportedly very heated.

But none expected that one of the most popular members of the old guard would resign and announce the formation of a new party designed to attract those members of the Congress dissatisfied with Mrs. Gandhi's policies since the state of emergency was proclaimed in June 1975.

Meanwhile, an informed source stated that Mrs. Gandhi is in poor health. The nature of her illness was not known. Those close to Mrs. Gandhi said she was "slightly indisposed."

In his letter of resignation to the prime minister today, Mr. Ram wished Mrs. Gandhi a "speedy recovery."

Ethiopia, Sudan may soften war of words

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 2 (R). — Relations between Ethiopia and neighbouring Sudan have reached an unprecedented low level, but signs of possible mediation emerged today to cool the situation.

There were indications that other African states might intervene to mediate in a dispute which flared at the beginning of the year with accusations from President Nimeiri that Ethiopia was har-

bouring camps for rebels opposed to his government.

Informed sources in Dar Es Salaam said Tanzania might use the celebrations on the island of Zanzibar this weekend to try to ease the tensions between the two sides.

The Ethiopian head of state Brig-Gen. Eferi Bante, will be there together with Sudan's representative, Transport Minister Bashir Abadi.

Shah says oil situation could bring foreign policy changes

KUWAIT, Feb. 2 (Agencies). — Iranian policy in the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf will need modifying if a solution fails to emerge on oil price disparity, the Shah of Iran said today in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyasa.

The Shah declared: "If the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fails to produce a satisfactory solution to the problem of crude oil prices, we shall be obliged to revise our foreign and military policy."

"Iran's oil output has dropped 25 or 30 per cent and we are hit by a deficit of \$7,000 million a year. If this goes on, we shall need to modify our policy in the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf."

He confirmed that efforts were being made to achieve uniform pricing next July, with Saudi Arabia raising its rates another five per cent and the bulk of the OPEC members renouncing their planned five per cent hike.

Indonesia, Venezuela and Kuwait had indicated backing for this idea and Iran would agree to it for reasons of unity if all the other OPEC countries approved it.

The Iranian leader also told the newspaper that OPEC was being subjected to "strong pressure" from Western countries to freeze oil rates.

But it was "in our interest to raise prices," said the Shah, adding that international inflation was due to bad management of the world economy and not to oil hikes.

The Shah reaffirmed an earlier statement that Iran would in future boycott all oil companies which break their contracts to buy Iranian oil.

"We will deal with them firmly, we will boycott them," he said.

The Shah again blamed Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister, for his country's decision to go against the majority at the December OPEC conference in Doha.

"What happened at OPEC has not affected our relations with Saudi Arabia. The matter is limited. The matter is confined to Mr. Yamani. What happened at Doha is something else," he said.

The Shah also denied that oil for goods barter deals such as one proposed with

Failed French diplomat shoots wife, 2 children then gives himself up

PARIS, Feb. 2 (AFP). — French diplomat Gerard Amanrich recalled from his post as Ambassador to the Vatican last June shot dead his wife and two teenage children here last night then gave himself up to the police.

The 56-year-old diplomat walked into the police station suburban Nanterre, and declared: "I am a minister plenipotentiary and I have just murdered my family."

Mr. Amanrich was taken to the city police headquarters today where he told detectives that he had fallen out of love with the diplomatic service and had become depressed with the offer of no new post to his liking.

He was appointed to the Vatican in 1974 under Foreign Minister Michel Jobert, with whom he reportedly had close ties, but was recalled two years later.

He said he took out a 20-year-old pistol and shot dead his 52-year-old wife Chantal and his son Stephane (16) as he watched a television programme featuring President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

He went down to the next floor of the building, in a fashionable 16th district of the French capital, where his 11-year-old daughter Ines had a room in her grandmother's apartment, and shot the girl.

According to Mr. Amanrich, his intention was then to commit suicide but he had run out of ammunition.

"I did not have the courage to go back to fetch my bullets from my apartment and I ran like a madman downstairs," he went on.

Mr. Amanrich said he went out in his car and drove around for about half an hour until he calmed down, then walked into the suburban police station.

Shah pardons prisoners

TEHRAN, Feb. 2 (AFP). — The Shah of Iran has pardoned 317 prisoners (including 66 found guilty of activities against the security of the state) to mark the anniversary of an attempted assassination in 1949, an official source said here today.

All of the prisoners were sentenced by military courts. They are to be freed because "they repented their past actions and asked for royal mercy," a statement from the Press News Agency declared.

The 66 involved in actions against state security include seven women and three persons imprisoned for involvement in the slaying of Iranian premier

Hassan Ali Mansour in 1968.

More than 3,000 common law prisoners have been in the past 10 months to the year-long 50th anniversary celebrations for the Pahlavi dynasty, according to the statements. During the period 124 persons were sentenced by military courts were in.

They had been found guilty of offences such as involvement in terrorism or Communist activities or attempts to undermine state security and serving sentences ranging from four years to life, the agency reported.

YOUNG ARRIVE IN LONDON

LONDON, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Drew Young, United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom, arrived here today.

He is the first American to take up his post since the departure of the late Ambassador Robert F. Kennedy in 1964.

Mr. Young, 52, is a former member of the House of Representatives and served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

He was born in New York City and graduated from Harvard University in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army and Navy during the Korean War.

Mr. Young was appointed to the post of Ambassador to the United Kingdom by President Jimmy Carter in 1976.

He will be based in London and will have a large staff of about 100 people.

Mr. Young's appointment was announced by the State Department in Washington on January 28.

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BAD NEWS COMING — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Congress Party President D. K. Borooah arrive Wednesday for a meeting to discuss the state of party candidates for the March parliamentary elections. The meeting took place before Food Minister Jagjivan Ram announced his resignation from the cabinet and Congress Party. (AP wirephoto).

State of emergency imposed in Sierra Leone after student unrest

FREETOWN, Feb. 2 (R). — President Siaka Stevens declared a state of emergency and imposed a strict curfew in Sierra Leone last night after clashes between pro-government demonstrators and students demanding his resignation.

No deaths or serious casualties were reported, but all schools and colleges were closed.

ed in the often-turbulent West African state. Trouble for the 71-year-old president erupted on Sunday at the University of Sierra Leone. Students confronted him at a ceremony, waving placards with slogans such as "Siaka Stevens resign" and "we want economic reforms."

Unrest spread widely yesterday in the capital, where shops and offices closed down and pupils of secondary schools joined the anti-government protests.

That was when the government announced a state of emergency and imposed a curfew between the hours of 7 pm and 6 a.m.

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ECONOMIC & BUSINESS NEWS

Britain's reserves soar

LONDON, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Sterling's sharp recovery and a first drawing on the \$3,900 million loan granted Britain by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month boosted the foreign exchange reserves of the Bank of England to a more than three-year high, the Treasury said today.

The reserves, which stood at a five-year low of \$4,129 million at the end of December, soared by \$3,067 million to \$7,196 million by Jan. 31, the highest level recorded since November 1974.

Just over one-third of the increase was accounted for by the first drawing of \$1,160 million on the standby credit which Britain secured from the IMF in December, and by public sector borrowing on the international market to the tune of \$13 million.

The balance of \$1,894 million was added to the Central Bank's reserves as a result of a massive inflow of funds following a return of confidence in sterling caused by the international rescue operation mounted at the end of last year, including the Basle agreement on sterling balances.

The Treasury said it was still too early to determine to what extent the inflow was due to the settlement of commercial operations or "hot" money flows attracted by the high interest rates in the city.

City sources said it was no secret that floating capital had recently been switched to the city from the United States, West Germany, Switzerland and elsewhere.

They said this explained a

recent rush to buy British treasury bonds on the stock exchange. The yield of these bonds, which at one point reached 16 per cent, have become very attractive because of the improved outlook for sterling, these sources said.

On the other hand, it was pointed out in these quarters that the reserves were bound to have gained from a reversal of trends in commercial operations. During the sterling

crisis, British importers sought to settle their bills as soon as possible, while exporters generally preferred to have the payment of their goods deferred.

Besides, informed sources said British banks were expected to repatriate funds totalling at least \$500 million as a result of the government's ban on sterling loans for the financing of trade between third countries.

It called for West German aid towards agricultural development in the kingdom and participation in industrial projects to be carried out under the country's 498 million riyal (\$140 million) five-year plan.

Saudi Industry Minister Ghazi Al Qusaibi will go to the Federal Republic in March to discuss possible West German participation in petrochemical, fertilizer and metallurgical projects, it was announced.

Shell and Mobil are reported to be already working on studies for petrochemical complexes. The plan calls for work on five such plants to begin by 1980, and provides for investment of 11.25 billion riyals (\$3.2 billion) in them.

The ministers drew up the memorandum of understanding at the end of the second session of the Saudi-West German Economic Commission, which met here for three days.

They said this explained a

Nigeria's oil sales remain steady despite 10% price rise

LAGOS, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Nigeria has lost 10 customers or orders since it opted for a 10 per cent increase in oil prices, despite the decision by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to limit their increase to five per cent, the Nigerian Business Times reported.

The magazine quoted Federal Petroleum Resources Commissioner Mohammed Buhari as saying "all our customers have agreed to continue lifting at the new agreed prices for our various crudes."

"Any default by any customer will be treated according to agreements entered into with the customer."

Col. Buhari said Nigeria had lost no customers and "so the question of looking for new ones does not arise."

During the last quarter of last year, oil exports stood at about 60,858,322 barrels a month.

Col. Buhari said Nigeria's relations with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would remain as cordial as ever. He added: "It is not in Nigeria's interest to read meanings into other member-countries' reasons for taking decisions."

BARRE PLAN LEADS TO INFLATION SLOWDOWN

PARIS, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Prime Minister Raymond Barre today said counter-inflationary measures he presented last Sep. had dampened price increases and helped to stabilise the French franc on foreign exchanges without slowing economic growth or adding to unemployment.

Presenting a first balance sheet of the "Barre plan" to a cabinet meeting chaired by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the premier said first results achieved had strengthened the government's determination to pursue its efforts to achieve economic stability.

The "Barre plan", presented last Sept. 22, involved a partial price freeze in the last three months of 1976, coupled with measures to ensure wage

restraint, cut down on energy consumption and tighten credit.

The premier said the second phase of the government's price measures was introduced as planned on Jan. 1, with a lowering of the value added tax for a wide range of goods, calculated to reduce prices by two per cent at the retail level.

Mr. Barre said probes had showed that 97 per cent of the retailers were passing the reduction on to consumers.

Official figures issued last week showed that the monthly rate of price increases was down from 1.1 per cent in September to 0.3 per cent in December. The official consumer price index as a result rose by 9.9 per cent for 1976 as a whole.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (R). — A Romanian delegation arrived here yesterday to sign a new agreement with Israel on agricultural cooperation. The head of the delegation, Mr. Vasileu Domitru, told reporters an official invitation would be extended to Israel's Agriculture Minister Aharon Uzan to visit Romania.

MADRID, Feb. 2 (R). — Iranian Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda arrived here today for a two-day official visit aimed at strengthening Spanish-Iranian ties and boosting mutual trade. Mr. Hoveyda said his talks with King Juan Carlos and Spanish ministers would cover oil and energy. Spain has incurred an enormous trade deficit with Iran, largely because of oil imports.

ABU DHABI, Feb. 2 (R). — Qatar's Petroleum and Finance Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani, the current OPEC Chairman, today held talks with the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and the foreign and oil ministers of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sheikh Abdul Aziz was reported last week to be promoting a compromise plan under which the OPEC majority would drop the July increase while Saudi Arabia and the UAE would raise their prices by five per cent to come into line.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

RABAT, Feb. 2 (R). — King Hassan of Morocco today received Mr. Nahum Goldmann, President of the World Jewish Congress, officials said. No details of the topics discussed were released.

TOULOUSE, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Pierre and Francoise Claude, back home in France after their release in Libya by Chad rebels, were undergoing the first of two days of medical tests at a clinic here today. A police plainclothes officer has been posted at the clinic to make sure the couple are not disturbed by unwanted visitors.

LONDON, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Rumours were spreading here today of a general election in the summer of next year, more than 12 months earlier than the latest possible date, after what looked like a calculated piece of "thinking aloud" by premier James Callaghan. He told a group of Labour members of Parliament last night that the rate of inflation would drop "precipitously" by mid-1978, but added that he would have "other things on my mind by then."

DUBLIN, Feb. 2 (AFP). — The provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) confirmed last night that it was behind the explosions in the West End of London last week. In a statement to Irish Radio, the provisional IRA said it took full responsibility for the bombings.

BELGRADE, Feb. 2 (R). — Pilot error is believed to have caused an air crash in which Yugoslav Prime Minister Dzemal Bijedic was killed near the central city of Sarajevo two weeks ago, an official report said today. The report by a government commission of inquiry said Mr. Bijedic's American-made Learjet aircraft was flying considerably faster and lower than allowed in the procedure for landing at Sarajevo airport.

CASABLANCA, Morocco, Feb. 2 (AFP). — Wailing relatives of some of the 139 alleged subversives on trial here today interrupted the state prosecutor as he asked for life sentences for 26 of the defendants. Life terms were sought for another 39 persons being tried in their absence on charges including plotting to overthrow the state and calling members of the judiciary "fascists". The prosecutor, speaking as jailed defendants were hunger-striking, asked for 30-year terms for 44 persons, 20 years for another 48 and 10-year sentences on 19 people.

PARIS, Feb. 2 (AFP). — France is planning to conduct another underground nuclear test in the Pacific Ocean, Australian sources said here today. The sources expected the blast to be "very powerful", with a force of at least one megaton. There was no official comment on the reports from the French government.



WHAT NEXT — A plainclothes policeman lies on the ground bleeding profusely from his head after being critically wounded in a gunfight during riots between leftist and rightist students downtown Rome Wednesday. An unidentified young man was shot by him. Several youths were also seriously wounded at the demonstration a day after a bloody clash between students of the political factions at Rome University.

مجلس الشعب